Application/Control Number: 09/701,991

Art Unit: ***

CLM PTO 12/05/00

1. A method for producing cardboard matches, especially for books of matches, comprising the following production steps:

- cutting or punching at least one piece of cardboard (1) from a paper- or cardboard-like material in such a way that for forming individual adjacent strips (5) cuts (4) are made in the piece of cardboard (1) from a first transversal side (3);

- providing at least end sections (7) of the strips (4) with preferably paraffin and an igniting composition (9) to form match strips, with cuts (4) being made in addition in the piece of cardboard (1) from a second transversal side (3), which is substantially opposite of the first side (3), in order to form further strips (5), characterized in that the piece of cardboard (1) is printed before or after the punching or cutting with advertisements or at least a motif (15) and the section of the first piece of cardboard (1) in the zone of the first transversal side (3) is printed from behind and the section in the zone of the second transversal side (3) is printed from the front.

- 2. A method for producing cardboard matches as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the formation of the second strips (5) is performed in the same production step as the formation of the first strips (5).
- 3. (Amended) A method for producing cardboard matches as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that the piece of cardboard (1) is provided with an oblong shape, with the longitudinal extension of the piece of cardboard (1) being produced in particular nearly twice as long as its transversal direction.
- 4. A method for producing cardboard matches as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the length of the cuts (4) towards the center of the piece of cardboard (1) is provided by slightly more than one third of the length of the longitudinal sides (2).
- 5. (Amended) A method for producing cardboard matches as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that a first section extending from the first transversal side (3) of the piece of cardboard (1) is bent or folded, so that the first transversal side (3) comes to lie preferably behind the second transversal side (3) or adjacent to the same.
- 6. A method for producing cardboard matches as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the folded piece of cardboard (1) is fastened in a book of matches by providing a two-layer arrangement of superimposed strips (5).

Page 2

Art Unit: ***

7. (Amended) A method for producing cardboard matches as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that a specially line-shaped weakening zone (6) is

integrated in the piece of cardboard (1) approximately centrally between the transversal sides (3) and parallel to the same.

- 8. A method for producing cardboard matches as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the weakening zone is a perforation (6) which is preferably simultaneously punched into the same during the punching of the piece of cardboard (1).
- 9. (Amended) A method for producing cardboard matches as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] <u>claim 1</u>, characterized in that the zones of the end sections (7) of the two transversal sides (3) arranged in one plane are provided with paraffin and/or igniting mass.
- 10. A method for producing cardboard matches as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the two zones of the end sections (7) are treated successively and that the piece of cardboard (1) is rotated accordingly in between.
 - 11. (Amended) A method for producing cardboard matches as claimed in [one of the claims 1 to 8] claim 1, characterized in that the piece of cardboard (1) is folded about an angle of preferably more than 90° and less than 180° and the zones of the end sections (7) of the two transversal sides are provided thereafter simultaneously with paraffin and/or igniting mass (9).
 - 12. (Amended) A method for producing cardboard matches as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that cuts (4) and/or cutouts (11) between the individual strips (5) are arranged such that the individual strips (5) are differently wide and/or differently shaped.

Art Unit: ***

13. Cardboard matches, in particular for a book of matches, produced in particular according to a method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,

- of a piece of cardboard (1):

- with a first and a second, substantially mutually opposite transversal side (3).
- with cuts (4) which are formed in the first transversal side (3) by forming first strips (5) with end sections (7).
- with igniting composition (9) and with preferably paraffin on the end sections (7) forming match strips, as well as
- further cuts (4) which are formed in the second transversal side (3) by forming second strips (5) with the end sections (7),
- characterized in that the second strips (5) and the first strips (5) are arranged integrally with the piece of cardboard (1), with the piece of cardboard (1) being printed with advertising or at least one motif (15) over a large area and/or strip (5) by strip (5) and with the section of the piece of cardboard (1) in the zone of the first transversal side (3) being printed from the back and the section in the zone of the second transversal side (3) being printed from the front.
- 14. Cardboard matches as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that the piece of cardboard (1) is provided with an oblong shape, with its longitudinal sides (2) being twice as long as its transversal sides (3).
- 15. Cardboard matches as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the length of the cuts (4) leads towards the center of the piece of cardboard (1) by slightly more than one-third of the length of the longitudinal sides (2).
- 16. (Amended) Cardboard matches as claimed in [one of the claims 13 to 15] claim 13, characterized in that a first section starting out from the first transversal side (3) of the piece of cardboard (1) is bent or folded in such a way that the first transversal side (3) preferably comes to lie behind the second transversal side (3) or adjacent to the same.
- 17. Cardboard matches as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that the folded piece of cardboard (1) is fastened in a book of matches by providing a two-layer arrangement of superimposed strips (5).

Application/Control Number: 09/701,991

Art Unit: ***

Page 5

- 18. (Amended) Cardboard matches as claimed in [one of the claims 13 to 17] claim 13, characterized in that an especially line-shaped weakening zone, preferably a perforation (6), is arranged in the piece of cardboard (1) approximately centrally between the transversal sides (3) and parallel to the same.
- 19. (Amended) Cardboard matches as claimed in [one of the claims 13 to 18] claim 13, characterized in that the cuts (4) and/or the cutouts (11) are arranged between individual strips (5) in such a way that the individual strips (5) are shaped with different widths and/or different shapes.
- 20. (Amended) Cardboard matches as claimed in [one of the claims 13 to 19] claim 13, characterized in that the shape of the strips (5) and a printed motif (15) are matched to one another.
- 21. (Amended) Cardboard matches as claimed in [one of the claims 13 to 20] claim 13, characterized in that the ignifing mass (9) is colored.
- 22. (Amended) A book of matches with at least one cardboard match as claimed in [one of the claims 13 to 21] claim 13.